

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

In 2008 dedicated public servants passed away; State Representative Michael Whalley, former Selectman, James Washburn and Kenneth Gilbert, a Levey Park Trustee. Also Fire Lieutenant John Woodland, Trustee Richard Poor, Solid Waste Attendant, Joseph Fisher and Planning Board member, Robert Bystrack. We are most grateful to have had their long-time services.

This year Mother Nature served up record snow falls, a category F2 tornado and a severe ice storm. While the July tornado cut a narrow path, damage to trees and power lines was severe in that path and many homes and properties suffered substantial damage. Especially hard hit were: Hollywood Beach Road, Chamberlain Road, Stockbridge Corner/Route 28 intersection and the Merrymeeting Mobile Home Park. While the record snow was costly and the ice storm killed the power for several days, they are events that are more or less expected in Alton. The tornado however, was a very rare and unexpected event in New Hampshire.

Two volunteer committees made significant progress during the year. The Beach Committee completed work on the Alton Bay East Side Beach with the addition of iron benches, picnic tables, a gazebo, new landscaping and renovations to Harmony Park. The Downtown Revitalization Committee added six "liberty" elm trees to the B&M Railroad Park, created a veteran's memorial with a flagpole, and negotiated an agreement with the owner of the original Loon Cove R.R. station whereby title to the building was transferred to the Town. The old station will be moved to the B&M R.R. Park next spring. In conjunction with the DRC, the Alton Historical Society has restored the old freight building located on the site. Also in 2008 the Board acknowledged recreation sites and instituted a new brochure entitled "Alton is a Park" identifying these areas.

Shortly after the March Town Meeting, the Board requested that architectural/engineering firms submit bids for services; primarily for preliminary design and costing of expansions of four Town buildings. After review of many proposals, Warrenstreet Architects of Concord, NH was selected to design expansions of the Central Fire Station, the Police Station and the Pearson Road Senior Center. Also included was a new energy efficient entrance way to the Town Hall and energy audits of several buildings. The resultant plans and cost data were presented to the Budget Committee in December.

In 2008 we also initiated an effort to develop a long term road reconstruction plan. That work is still in process. Also ongoing is an effort to develop a long term plan for expansion of the Solid Waste/Recycling Center. After several years of service, Alan Sherwood resigned from the Board of Selectmen and was honored at a special ceremony by the Board and staff in December. Congratulations to Selectman Peter Bolster who was recently elected as our State representative. Peter will continue to serve as a Selectman.

In conclusion, we thank all those who have contributed in many ways on behalf of the Town.

We may be contacted by telephone at 875-2161 or via e-mail at [selectmen@alton.nh.gov](mailto:selectmen@alton.nh.gov).

## ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Alan Sherwood, Chairman (retired)	Stephan McMahon, Selectman
William Curtin, Acting Chair	Patricia Fuller, Selectman
Peter Bolster, Selectman	